

# Southwest Fire Management Board

July 23, 2003



## 2003 Wildland Fire Season Memorandum

**Directed to:** All Federal and State Fire Management Units in the Southwest Area

**From:** Chair, Southwest Fire Management Board

**Topic/Issue:** Noxious Weed Management

Preventing the introduction and spread of noxious weeds is one objective of integrated weed management in the southwest. Federal, state and tribal agencies have developed noxious weed policies that stress the prevention and spread of noxious weeds. To minimize the introduction and spread of noxious weeds during southwest area incidents, the Southwest Fire Management Board indorses weed-free prevention measures for all fire suppression and pre-suppression activities. Recommended actions may include:

1. Inspecting areas and firefighter packs and clothing for the presence of noxious weed seed or reproductive plant material when reporting for duty (For example: Firefighters that have come to us from other geographic areas have transported noxious weed seed such as spotted knapweed to the southwest area).
2. Preventing the establishment of incident command campsites on or near noxious weed locations. Avoiding infested assess or travel routes.
3. Assigning a local weed specialist or include in Resource Advisor duties to the Incident Management Team when wildfire or control operations occur in or near a noxious weed area.
4. Having Resource Advisors provide briefings that identify operational practices to reduce weed spread (for example: avoiding known weed infestation areas when locating fire lines).
5. Providing weed identification aids to Field Observers.
6. Insuring that rental equipment is free of weed seed before the contracting officer representative accepts the equipment.
7. Inspecting and if necessary power washing aircraft and ground equipment prior to or after incident command activities.
8. Insuring weed-free airport and heliport landing strips and sites.
9. Avoiding the movement of water from infested lakes to lakes that are not infested prior to inspection and cleaning. There is no hazard in using water infested with aquatic weeds on terrestrial sites
10. Utilizing native and certified weed-free seed during rehabilitation projects.
11. Monitoring fire, camp and network areas for two growing seasons after an incident to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds.
12. Taking care during the planning and execution of prescribed burn projects to address the risk of introducing and increasing the density of noxious weeds.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining an efficient operation supporting the firefighters on the ground!

Kirk Rowdabaugh, 2002-2003 Chair, Southwest Fire Management Board